

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney Southern District of New York

The Silvio J. Mollo Building One Saint Andrew's Plaza New York, New York 10007

July 9, 2008

## BY HAND

Honorable Richard M. Berman United States District Court Southern District of New York 500 Pearl Street, Room 650 New York, New York 10007

MEMO ENDORSED

Re: <u>United States v. Judith Leekin</u>, 08 Cr. 446 (RMB)

Dear Judge Berman:

The Government respectfully forwards to the Court a letter submitted by New York City Children's Services in advance of sentencing.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL J. GARCIA United States Attorney

By:

Alexander J. Willscher

Assistant United States Attorney

Tel: (212) 637-2736 Fax: (212) 637-2452

Enclosure

cc: Diamond R. Litty, Esq./Mark

The Court will consider this

Harliee, Esq. (by fax) letter in connection

with sentencing which is currently

scheduled for 7-15-08 at 2:00p.m.

SO ORDERED:

Date: 7-10-08

Richard M. Barman

Richard M. Berman, U.S.D.J



New York City Children's Services Office of the Commissioner 150 William Street, 18th Floor New York, NY 10038

John B. Mattingly Commissioner

Joseph Cardieri Deputy Commissioner & General Counsel

July 9, 2008

Alexander J. Willscher, Esq. Assistant United Stated Attorney U.S. Department of Justice United States Attorney Southern District of New York The Silvio J. Mollo Building One Saint Andrew's Plaza New York, NY 10007

RE: United States v. Judith Leekin 08 CR. 446 (RMB)

Dear Mr. Willscher:

I am writing in response to the federal court's order, dated May 22, 2008, which requested in part that the parties provide written submissions for consideration in the court's sentencing in this matter. Although the New York City Administration for Children's Services (Children's Services) is not a party to this case, the agency received notification of its status as a victim and therefore we wish to submit a statement to the court to be considered prior to sentencing.

Judith Leekin victimized the New York City Administration for Children's Services, an agency whose mission is to ensure the safety and well-being of New York City children. Judith Leekin victimized Children's Services by defrauding it and its predecessor agency, the New York City Human Resources Administration, into allowing her to become the foster parent and then the adoptive parent for children whom she had no interest in caring for and subsequently adopted under fraudulent pretenses.

In the context of adoptions, Children's Services' mission is to find permanent homes with adoptive parents who offer children love, protection, safety, care, permanency, and stability. Adoptive parents take on an enormous responsibility-that of dedicating themselves to nurturing the most vulnerable population, children who have been abused or neglected. Some of these children, as was the case here, have severe behavioral or mental health problems as a result of what they have endured in the homes of their birth parents and desperately need and deserve a loving, stable home. The adoption subsidy money provided to adoptive parents is intended to benefit the children. Its purpose is to assist parents in providing them with resources and services. In using false identities to

T. W.2/ W.2

adopt numerous children, Judith Leekin robbed these children of the safe, happy, loving upbringing they so richly deserved. She also in fact robbed these children out of over a million and a half dollars and used it for her own personal gain and selfish interests while the children suffered for years in her home, without basic and necessary care.

In treating Children's Services as a vehicle for harming these children, Judith Leekin not only victimized the children by unjustly cheating them out of love, affection and financial support, but also undermined an agency devoted to child protection, strengthening families, and promoting successful adoptions. Together with each child who was harmed by Judith Leekin, Children's Services staff members feel angered and betrayed by her actions and their impact on the adoption process.

Children's Services believes that Judith Leekin should pay restitution to the children in the full amount of adoption subsidy money that she fraudulently obtained. In the alternative, restitution should be paid to Children's Services and we will make every effort to see that this money goes to the benefit of the children who were the primary victims of this crime. To the extent that it is determined that restitution should be paid to our governmental partners on the federal and state level who contributed funds to the adoption subsidies paid by Children's Services, we would urge them to join us in seeing that the money involved goes to the benefit of the children.

Sincerely.

oseph Cardieri

Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel